

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-14 and 16-31 are pending. Claims 22-23 are allowed, and Claims 11-21, 26, and 30 are indicated to be patentable in subject matter. Claims 1-10, 24-25, 27-29, and 31 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,927 or 5,692,699 to Weirauch et al.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowed and allowable claims.

The rejection of Claims 1-10 has been obviated by cancellation of these claims. Claim 11 has been canceled as well because it is substantially a duplicate of allowed Claim 22. Accordingly, the claims dependent on original Claim 11 have been amended to depend from Claim 22.

Claims 17 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, it is submitted that all pending claims drawn to the dual-functioning startup and splicing mechanism (Claims 12-14 and 16-23) are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected method claims 24-25 and 27 as anticipated by Weirauch et al. Applicant respectfully submits these rejections are erroneous. Claim 24 is drawn to a method wherein a tail end of a web wound about a winding core is attached to the winding core with a two-component mechanism. The tail end comprises the end closest to the winding core, as opposed to the leading end that is at the outer surface of the roll of web material wound on the core. The two-component mechanism comprises a core component attached directly to the outer surface of the core and a web component attached to the tail end, the web component being releasably attached to a leading portion of the web component that projects out from the tail end of the web, the leading portion of the web component having an adhesive thereon, the adhesive being attached to and covered by the web component. By attaching the tail end to the core with the two-component mechanism, the startup of winding of the web about the core is facilitated. Additionally, Claim 24 recites that during unwinding of the web, the web component detaches

from the core component to expose the adhesive on the web component that extends from the tail end of the web. The tail end is spliced to the leading end of another web using the web component.

Weirauch never discloses nor suggests attaching a tail end of a web to a winding core with a two-component mechanism. Weirauch is concerned only with splicing a leading end of a web to the tail end of another web. Nowhere is there any suggestion of using the splicing mechanism to attach a tail end of a web to a winding core as required by Claim 24. For at least this reason, Claim 24 is not anticipated by Weirauch.

Claim 27 is drawn to a method for winding a web into a roll about a winding core. A two-component mechanism is attached to the winding core. The two-component mechanism has a web component releasably attached to a core component, the core component being affixed directly to the outer surface of the winding core and having a free end portion that is unaffixed to the winding core and is releasably attached to a first portion of the web component, the first portion of the web component having an adhesive attached to and covered by the free end portion of the core component. In accordance with the claimed method, a second portion of the web component is attached to a tail end of the web, and the winding core is rotated to wind the web into a roll about the core.

As should be apparent from the above remarks about Weirauch, there is no teaching or suggestion in Weirauch to wind a web about a winding core with the aid of a two-component mechanism as claimed. Again, Weirauch is concerned solely with splicing. Therefore, Claim 27 is not anticipated by Weirauch.

Claim 28 was also rejected as anticipated by Weirauch. Claim 28 is directed to an assembly of a winding core and a two-component mechanism comprising a core component attached directly to the outer surface of the core and a splicing tape having a portion adhered to the core component, wherein the core component and the adhesive of the splicing tape are structured and arranged such that the splicing tape adheres to the core component in releasable fashion. Because Weirauch is concerned only with splicing, there is no disclosure or suggestion

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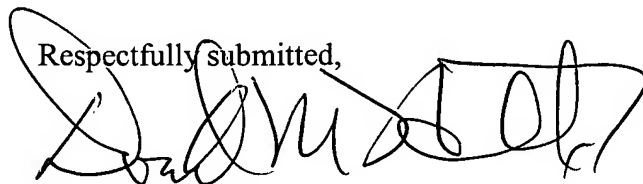
of providing an assembly as claimed in Claim 28. Such an assembly is useful for the startup and winding of a web about the winding core, which Weirauch is completely silent about. Figure 4 of Weirauch fails to disclose or suggest a two-component mechanism wherein a core component is affixed directly to the outer surface of the core.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims as amended above are patentable over the cited references.

Consideration Of Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

It is noted that an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 15, 2004 has not been returned to Applicants' representative with the Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form 1449 be forwarded to the undersigned with the next communication from the PTO. In order to facilitate review of the references by the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form 1449 are attached hereto.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 6, 2005


Nancy McPartland

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